



Jan. 11, 2022

Higher Education excerpts from Gov. McMaster's proposed FY23 budget

Gov. Henry McMaster presented the South Carolina FY23 Executive Budget on Jan. 10, urging the General Assembly to make targeted investments that support South Carolina students, families, and educators, and that prepare students for the workforce of the 21st century. Specific higher-education allocations begin on page 88.

Higher Education Funding Highlights:

- \$60,000,000 in lottery dollars for need-based grants at the Commission on Higher Education (CHE)
- \$20,101,049 in recurring general fund dollars for tuition mitigation
- \$20,000,000 in lottery dollars for tuition grants at the Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission
- \$20,000,000 in lottery dollars to address the shortage of instructors in nursing schools
- \$4,377,100 in lottery dollars for scholarships for students with intellectual disabilities attending College Transition Programs.

Commission on Higher Education-specific Funding (Sec. 11)

- \$6,200,000 in lottery funding for the National Guard Tuition Prepayment Program
- \$4,377,100 in lottery funding for College Transition Program Scholarships

Higher Education excerpt from Gov. McMaster's Executive Budget Press Conference (Jan. 10):

"To address the historic labor crisis affecting key sectors of South Carolina's economy, I am requesting that the General Assembly invest \$124 million in ARPA funds to expand Workforce Scholarships for the Future, a program that allows residents to earn an industry credential or associate degree in high-demand careers like manufacturing, healthcare, computer science, information technology, transportation, logistics, or construction.

We have evidence and data that this program will be successful. Last year, we partnered with the South Carolina Technical College System to create these scholarships and dedicated \$29 million in federal Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) funds to start the program. To date over 4,000 South Carolinians have been retrained and employed. The scholarships are "last dollar" scholarships, meaning the student must exhaust all other financial or academic assistance available, like federal Pell Grants. Recipients will be required to maintain a 2.0 grade point average and if un-employed, to either complete 100 hours of volunteer service, or complete a financial literacy course offered at the technical college they are attending.

Access and affordability to higher education for every South Carolinian is essential to ensuring that our state has the trained and skilled workforce to compete for jobs and investment in the future. That means we must invest to make all higher education - our colleges, universities, and technical colleges - accessible and affordable for the sons and daughters of South Carolina. This Executive Budget marks the third consecutive year that I have proposed the General Assembly freeze college tuition for in-state students,



803-737-2260

1122 Lady St, Ste 400
Columbia, SC 29201

www.che.sc.gov



with an appropriation of \$20.1 million. This represents the 2.7% increase in the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI) for 2022 and is based on the number of in-state students enrolled at each public institution.

Also, I propose providing \$60 million so that every South Carolinian who qualifies for federal needs-based financial aid - as measured by federal Pell Grants - has the sufficient state financial assistance to attend any in-state public college, university, or technical college. Students at private, independent, and historically black colleges and universities will receive an additional \$20 million for tuition grants and assistance.

As I recommended last year, we must continue to address the repairs needed at the aging, state-owned buildings, and infrastructure on the campuses of our colleges, universities, and technical colleges. I ask the General Assembly to join me in paying down the state's deferred maintenance liability with available capital reserve funds to be distributed pro-rata based on each institution's fall 2021 in-state enrollment - rather than borrowing it and creating more debt in the future through a bond bill."

The full document is available for download at:

<https://governor.sc.gov/sites/default/files/Documents/Executive-Budget/FY23%20Executive%20Budget%2001102022.pdf>